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£22M SHOCK

HARLOW Council is bracing itself for more financial turmoil after it was revealed it is facing a potential budget deficit running into millions of pounds.

The news has rocked the Conservative administration which thought it was on track to solve the authority's money worries.

Close scrutiny of the council's medium term financial strategy revealed that £22.5m will have to be found in order to pay back money the previous administration agreed to borrow to fund various important housing and non-housing

By **LOUISE SASSOON**, News Editor
sassoona@hertsessexnews.co.uk

capital projects until 2012/13.

These include bringing the authority's housing stock up to the Government-set decent homes standards, carrying out maintenance work to council-owned buildings and paying for IT equipment at the Civic Centre.

Although only £6m of money has actually been spent, council chiefs admit they will have to think fast in order to find ways of paying back all of the cash so the work can continue.

continued on page 3

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Friends share Christmas Day surprise

CHRISTMAS Day was extra special for two friends after they both gave birth to beautiful baby girls.

While most people sat down to roast turkey with all the trimmings, Katie Smith (22), of Great Plumtree, Harlow, and Rachel King (21), of Sherwood House, Bush Fair, were busy delivering a pair of perfect presents.

Rachel, who was due to give birth on Christmas Eve, was the first to go into labour. Daughter Rileigh

arrived shortly after 2am on Christmas morning, weighing in at 8lb 12oz.

A little over 17 hours later Katie, pictured left with partner Lee Wilkinson, gave birth to her second child, Darcie-Jayne. She was due on Boxing Day but arrived early and weighed 6lb 11oz.

Rachel, pictured right with partner Reece Vetori (22), told the **Star**: "It was the perfect gift for us this Christmas.

"I do feel a bit sorry for Rileigh, though. We'll have to give her another unofficial birthday otherwise she'll only have the one special day every year!"

Lee, who plays football with Reece, said: "It's unbelievable they both gave birth on the same day.

"It's unusual enough to have a baby on Christmas Day but for two friends to share that experience is amazing. We're over the moon."

(photo: MV3VZ3DR/08)



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Pair sent to prison over cocaine deals

TWO men have been jailed for cocaine deals worth more than £1m.

John Sheppard (57), of Great Brays, Harlow, admitted two offences of conspiring to supply cocaine and was jailed for five years seven months.

Michael Miller (65), of Kingsland, Harlow, denied but was found guilty of one offence of conspiring to supply cocaine and was jailed for eight years.

At Chelmsford Crown Court on Tuesday, Judge Peter Fenn said: "Courts take a very serious view of those who become involved in the supply of Class A drugs. It wrecks people's lives. And higher up the chain, more serious offences are carried out."

Prosecutor Cyrus Shrof told the

court that on December 18, 2007, a police surveillance of a Stephen Callaghan and Sheppard on the M62 and in Liverpool ended with the latter being stopped in a car with bags of cocaine - 3.95kg at 75 per cent purity, with a street value of up to £400,000.

On December 28, officers watching Miller's address entered and found 6.75kg of cocaine at a purity of 82 per cent, worth up to £650,000.

Sheppard was also seen at the house and was later arrested.

When interviewed, Miller said he did not know he was carrying drugs and Sheppard made 'no comment' replies.

Previously, Liverpool man Stephen Callaghan (48) received eight years at Liverpool Crown Court for related matters.



UPSET: Catherine Weatherall and her son Jack (photo: JRB2GVDV/04)

Parents seek school transfer for boy traumatised by 'slap' incident

THE parents of a nine-year-old boy claim he is too traumatised to return to school after witnessing his teacher telling three classmates to slap his best friend for failing to correctly answer a question.

Jack Weatherall, of Church Leys, Harlow, begged his mother and father to remove him from Purford Green Junior School after the incident, which the school has admitted was unacceptable. He has not attended lessons since November 21.

Parents Christine (38) and Chris (37) contacted headmistress Vivien Perri and called for the teacher involved to be dismissed. But they were told she had only been suspended and would be returning to work following a short absence.

"I couldn't believe the teacher wasn't sacked," said Mrs Weatherall. "What she did was unforgivable and there was no way we could put Jack through the trauma of going back into her class."

The couple are now trying to secure a place for their son at William Martin Junior School.

"Our GP has agreed that he needs familiarity at this time, which is why we will only accept a place at William Martin because he has lots of friends there," she added.

"It's been very hard on him. He's not been to school for weeks and we've had to try and teach him ourselves from workbooks. We've told the county council this but they're still not budging."

An Essex County Council spokesman said there were currently no places at William Martin, adding: "There are spaces available in other Harlow primary schools and the council would be happy to progress an application to one of them."

"Alternatively, the family has leave to appeal the council's decision to refuse a place at William Martin before an independent panel."

Council's £22m budget shock

continued from front page

One possibility is selling buildings to raise most of the money but they have already warned council tax could also go up as a result.

Council leader Andrew Johnson laid the blame for the financial problems on the previous administration, claiming it had not drawn up plans to repay the cash.

His deputy, Simon Carter, told the *Star* a great deal had already been done to find most of the £10m needed by next April by raiding budgets

and shelving a number of projects but he said the new crisis was more than frustrating.

He hopes proposals for repayment will have been drawn up by the time the new budget is set in February and said the council would have to be "innovative" in the way it handles the problem.

And in a swipe at the previous Labour and Liberal Democrat administration he said a prudent council would have drawn up suitable repayment methods before agreeing to borrow cash.

However, Labour leader Mark Wilkinson refuted the allegation there was no repayment plan and accused the Conservatives of making excuses in order to cut services.

Liberal Democrat leader Chris Millington added the Tories excuse of blaming the previous administration for problems was "wearing thin".

"Obviously in the life of a five-year plan, things change," he added. "We would have to have made money to pay for it if we were still in administration."

College 'progress'

HARLOW College is continuing to improve since being criticised in its last full Ofsted report, according to the education watchdog.

The annual Ofsted monitoring visit found the college has made "reasonable progress" in three out of five inspection areas and "significant progress" in improving outcomes for students on vocational courses.

But the report also warned that students' poor achievements at A- and AS-level remained a cause for concern, with inspectors bemoaning sub-par success rates and the lack of high grades.

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SCHOOLBAG

PASSMORES: The Tendring Road school proved once again that it is more than just a place to learn after it received an Epilepsy Action Gold Award in recognition of its outstanding efforts to raise awareness and meet the needs of students and teachers with the condition.

The national charity commended the school for its dedication to an ongoing project to create a support network and deliver awareness sessions on epilepsy. The project was pioneered by students Emma Crucefix and Josh Crowder. Headteacher Vic Goddard said: "I'm delighted to accept

this award on behalf of the children and teachers at Passmore. We've seen a really positive change in general attitudes towards the condition since the project has been running, so it just goes to show that all the hard work is paying off.

"We anticipate an in-school support group on epilepsy becoming an established activity at the school and the project has also inspired ideas about support groups for other conditions including dyslexia."

Pictured are June Massey of Epilepsy Action, Sara Simpson Wendy Tarran, Mr Goddard, Emma Crucefix and Joshua Crowder. (photo: LTM/LYDR/01)



CHURCHGATE: Pupils showed they had hearts of gold when they organised a fundraising event for the Wallace and Gromit Foundation to raise money for children's hospitals and hospices. The whole school took part in the event with activities ranging from a tea party to a talent shows by the older pupils.

Their efforts were rewarded when they raised £278.50 for the Foundation and a further £69.50 for the *Blue Peter* appeal. Sue Brown, PSHA co-ordinator, said: "It gave our healthy and happy children the chance to think of other people who are less fortunate than themselves. The children loved it as did the teachers."

(photo: ZXVL063D/01)



TANY'S DELL: Pupils and teachers said farewell to head teacher Val Jones, who is taking early retirement after 20 years of service. Among those paying tribute to her work was Harlow MP Bill Rammell, who attended a get-together held in her honour.

Mrs Jones, who will continue with her involvement in the Harlow Education Consortium, said: "This was a truly special evening and one which I will

remember for ever. It was wonderful to see so many former colleagues and associates and to be able to reminisce over countless happy memories.

"I will of course miss the children and staff dreadfully but I know that Tany's Dell will continue to be a successful and happy school." Mrs Jones is pictured, centre, with office manager Bev Ingram and deputy head Fern Middleton. (photo: XF44VPFF/03)

Cash cuts threat to advice service

A VITAL service offering free advice on debt, benefits and unemployment could become the first casualty in a programme of cost-cutting measures planned by cash-strapped Harlow Council.

The Welfare Rights and Advice Service, currently based at the Advice Centre in East Gate, may be axed unless a suitable bid is forthcoming to keep the service going.

The service was council-run until 2003 when it became an independent charity. However, the authority has continued to co-fund the service with the Legal Services Commission and this year alone paid out almost £500,000.

But as the council faces up to a potential £22.5m deficit, it has decided to cut funding to the discretionary service in a bid to help plug the gaping hole in its finances.

Councillor Simon Carter, chairman of the council's policy and resources committee, told the **Star**: "Sadly, we cannot continue to fund advice services to the current extent. These services are provided by the council on a discretionary basis which means they are not services we must legally provide."

By **CHRIS MOSS**
moss@hertssexnews.co.uk

"The council is facing many budget pressures and needs to take a hard look at how it funds services while keeping increases in council tax and charges for our statutory services as low as possible for our residents."

WRAS manager Sue Jones said the withdrawal of funding would be "devastating" for the people of Harlow.

"There is absolutely no question this will have a devastating effect on the thousands of residents who rely on the services we can provide," she said.

"The Conservatives have pushed this decision through without being in possession of the full facts. I really don't think they realise the terrible impact this will have on the town."

Harlow MP Bill Rammell, who runs a fortnightly advice surgery from the threatened centre, said he was extraordinarily concerned about the cuts proposed.

"If there is any time not to cut advice and welfare rights services it is in the midst of a huge international economic downturn," he warned.

"I would urge the Conservatives running Harlow Council to think again and I will be making the strongest representations possible to them."

Thousands back call for town relief road

PUBLIC support for a new bypass to ease road congestion in Harlow is overwhelming, according to the town's MP.

Bill Rammell said his attempts to secure Government funding for a relief road linking the A14 and M11 has resulted in an unprecedented number of his constituents joining the campaign.

Bolstered by the backing of more than 2,500 Harlow residents

who have signed a petition, the MP has now lobbied regional ministers Barbara Follett and Chris Mole.

"I am delighted that residents of Harlow have expressed such overwhelming support for the bypass campaign," he said this week.

"Being able to demonstrate to the ministers who will advise Government on how to allocate transport fund-

ing as to the huge level of support in Harlow, and how strongly people feel about the congestion problems in our town, will put Harlow firmly in the forefront of their minds."

Mr Rammell insisted a bypass would make a huge contribution to reducing the town's current traffic problems, adding: "I would like to thank everyone who signed up for participating."

More shops hit by recession

THE recession looks set to claim more victims in Harlow with the news that a further two national chain stores are under threat.

Adams, the children's clothes shop which has a branch in the Harvey Centre, has applied to go into administration. It follows a similar move by music store Zavvi, which has an outlet in Broad Walk.

And on Saturday the Woolworths store in the Water Gardens was packed with shoppers looking for a

bargain before it closed for the final time. The branch was one of the first batch of 200 to shut after administrators failed to find a buyer for the high street chain which had debts of £385.

It is understood that all 38 staff employed at the Harlow store were made redundant.

Furniture giant MFI, which had a store at Princes Gate in Harlow, closed earlier this month after administrators were unable to put together a rescue package.

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JANUARY

THE mother of a young boy who suffered brain damage during birth spoke of her relief after he was awarded a £2.4m settlement from Princess Alexandra Hospital. Robert Jackson, now 9, was left with speech problems and development delay as a result of oxygen starvation during delivery. PAH denied liability for the incident.

A BEREAVED pensioner complained he was sent threatening letters by British Gas demanding payment for a bill he had already settled. Bernie Walker was warned he faced legal action, even though he had confirmation from his bank that he had paid on time. British Gas finally apologised and assured Mr Walker it would not happen again.

SHOPPERS were given a treat on what was said to be the most depressing day of the year when staff at the Harvey Centre handed out £20 notes to help beat the winter blues. However, many thought it was too good to be true and refused to take the free gift.

FEBRUARY



A HARLOW businessman died in an accident at an Italian ski resort. David Monk, who ran the Whitehouse shop in the Harvey Centre, lost control while sliding down a snow-covered mountain on a rubber mat.

THE Asda store in the town centre was the scene of a bomb scare following a call from a man about an alleged suicide bomber. The culprit later told police he thought it would be funny after he had watched a film about suicide bombers. The area around the Water Gardens was evacuated and an armed response unit along with a police helicopter was called to the scene.

THE *Star* reported that public toilets close to a primary school in Old Harlow were being used as a venue for illegal sexual activity. Lewd graffiti was scrawled on the walls of the block and crude holes had been cut in cubicle walls. The toilets have now been closed down.

AN investigation was started after a patient apparently jumped to his death from a window at Princess Alexandra Hospital.

MARCH

BAA submitted plans for a controversial second runway at Stansted Airport.

THREE properties in Harlow were raided by police, who found more than 1,000 cannabis plants, specialist equipment and 35 bags of the drug worth an estimated £100,000. Four men and one woman were arrested.

YOUNG people got a new place to hang out when Café Youth opened in

the town centre. Youngsters under 18 are now able to relax on sofas, surf the internet, play on games consoles and enjoy snacks from a canteen. Youth workers are also on hand to offer advice.

HIGHER taxes on alcohol outraged pub landlords, with many predicting it could be the beginning of the end for some of them. Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling announced in the budget an increase on all alcoholic drinks, a move the Government claimed would stop teenage binge drinking. In total, the tax hike was expected to raise an extra £400m for the Treasury.

APRIL

FURY erupted among workers after a travel call centre closed just weeks after they were promised their jobs were safe. TUI Travel offered more than 200 staff either redundancy or relocation to offices in Surrey, saying the move would bring "significant cost benefits to the business".

THE parents of a girl born nine weeks prematurely suffered the baby blues when they were separated from their daughter because of a shortage of special care facilities at Princess Alexandra Hospital. Mum Cara Dedman and her partner had to make a 40-mile round journey to Luton to see baby Tru because of a shortage of cots in the PAH neo-natal intensive care unit.

THE toll of rail deaths at Harlow Mill station rose to five when a couple seen arguing on the tracks were struck by a train. Katie Gumble and her boyfriend Dean Pickard were reported to have had a blazing row during which she climbed down onto the rails and he attempted to pull her to safety.

HARLOW Council was put to shame after it emerged that a severely dyslexic woman and two young children were left to fend for themselves after being evicted from their home. Christina Reynolds had received several letters about rent arrears but due to her dyslexia she was unable to read them. In addition, Miss Reynolds was unaware that a previous job would affect her housing benefit and cause her to fall behind in payments.

MAY



THERE was a public outcry when plans were unveiled for Kingsmoor House to be turned into a mosque. The building was already being used as an Islamic centre but proposals to extend it into a mosque, complete with prayer room and dome, were met with hostility. The matter took a sinister twist when some contributors to a Facebook group posted racist and anti-Muslim messages.

HISTORY was made on election night when the Conservatives swept to power for the first time since the

new town was built.

PRINCESS Alexandra Hospital was back in the headlines after a blunder resulted in a patient being sent home with the wrong drugs. Robert Brewington was given the wrong medication by the on-site pharmacy. After checking the dosage instructions, it came to his attention that they were intended for another person with a completely different illness.

EVIDENCE of the impending recession came when Pitney Bowes, one of the town's biggest employers, announced more redundancies.

JUNE



ORGANISERS of the *Star*-backed Midnight Walk were celebrating the success of the event which saw more than 1,300 men and woman taking part to raise more than £100,000 for St Clare Hospice.

HARLOW Town FC goalkeeper Michael Dumoulin did the town proud when he sang his way through to the televised rounds of *The X Factor*. Unfortunately, his progress on the show came to an abrupt halt when he failed to get past the boot camp stage.

JULY

CONSERVATIVE leader David Cameron was the star attraction when he visited Old Harlow to take part in a public question-and-answer session on future Tory policy. About 200 people managed to squeeze into St John's Arts and Recreation Centre to listen to Mr Cameron's views concerning how his party proposed to make Britain a better place to live.

HARLOW Council's scheme to end weekly rubbish collections and introduce wheellie bins sent shockwaves through the town. Many residents were outraged that household rubbish and recycling were instead going to be collected on alternative weeks, spurring pensioners in the town to draw up a petition of objection.

THE *Star* was the first newspaper in the country to report the plight of Harlow teenager Jade Jacobs-Brookes, who has no birth certificate, no passport and no proof of identity due to a mix-up when she was born while her mother was on holiday in Spain. A temporary passport was issued to ensure Jade got home but when she arrived back in Britain, her parents were told they did not have the right documents to register her birth.

AUGUST

AUTHORITIES declared war on underage drinking when they poured away hundreds of pounds worth of alcohol a which had been confiscated during a six-month period.

of the stories that featured in the pages of the Star

REVIEW OF 2008

with the new



HARLOW College was dealt another blow after results revealed that AS exam results were more than 20 per cent below the national average. Only 37 per cent of students gained A-C grades, compared to the national average of 57.6 per cent.

OCTOBER

CONSERVATIVE councillor David Kirton was arrested following allegations that he sexually abused a 13-year-old girl. The case is due to go to trial next year.

STANSTED Airport's expansion was back in the news when BAA gave the green light to allow an extra 10 million passengers through its doors. The move was welcomed by leading political figures in the town, who claimed it would bring prosperity to Harlow.

HARLOW MP Bill Rammell was given the role of minister of state for the Middle East in Prime Minister Gordon Brown's cabinet reshuffle.

NOVEMBER



A CASE of mistaken identity left a couple fearing for their safety. Graham and June Barker woke up one morning to find their front door covered in vomit, urine and graffiti. Those responsible believed there was a drugs dealer living at the flat in Parsonage Leys, Harlow.

MINICAB drivers were fuming over controversial new regulations requiring them to undergo random drug and alcohol tests. They claimed it was discrimination because black cab drivers were exempt from the testing.

HEALTH chiefs launched an investigation after it emerged a

patient from the mental health unit at Princess Alexandra Hospital was trapped in a lift for more than 24 hours.

DECEMBER



MOURNERS attending the funeral of Ida Godfrey were left stunned when, on arriving at Parndon Wood Cemetery, they were told it would have to be postponed until the following day because cemetery staff forgot to dig her grave.

POLICE chiefs hailed the success of a crackdown on drugs dealers which resulted in 16 people being arrested. Officers carried out a number of raids on addresses in Harlow and the London borders.

A CHRISTMAS appeal by Harlow-based charity Streets2Homes, which helps the homeless, touched the hearts of Star readers who responded magnificently by donating cash and goods.

50 MOST READ WEB STORIES OF 2008

- 1) Body thought to be missing traveller
- 2) Four arrested over Facebook mosque comments
- 3) Family tributes to rail victims
- 4) Traveller death not thought to be suspicious
- 5) Body feared to be that of missing canoeist
- 6) Facebook rants over mosque plan
- 7) Primary school sex arrest
- 8) Rail death couple named
- 9) Chance Sisters' X Factor blog
- 10) Tories win control of council
- 11) Double fatality on rail line
- 12) Arson attack at school
- 13) Parking fears over mosque plan
- 14) Half of secondary schools face closure
- 15) Ninth death on Harlow's railway
- 16) Police raid at Occasio House
- 17) Pretty in pink for midnight walk
- 18) Woman held over attempted murder
- 19) Harlow murder probe
- 20) Councillor charged with sex offences
- 21) Another Harlow rail death
- 22) Man's jaw broken by thugs
- 23) Eighth death on railway
- 24) Eateries named and shamed for poor hygiene
- 25) Aimee's a High Street Honey
- 26) It's Paradise for Zara the lion cub
- 27) 11 arrests in gipsy site crackdown
- 28) Hawks' FA Cup dream dies
- 29) Facebook pair lead Baby P protest
- 30) A-level grade wait finally over
- 31) Body found near Stort navigation
- 32) Tories reveal £10m crisis
- 33) Jobs boost for town
- 34) Murder victim Hungarian
- 35) Man falls to death
- 36) Headlice outbreak at school
- 37) Arson suspected after blaze
- 38) Ticket inspectors stole fare cash
- 39) Row leads to double fatality on rail line
- 40) Filo mince pie parcels - video recipe
- 41) Love the new netball strip, ladies
- 42) Harlow pair in brothel case
- 43) Man jailed for having sex with girl, 14
- 44) Man arrested in armed operation
- 45) Man killed in frenzied knife attack
- 46) Dilemma of girl with no I.D.
- 47) Guy Fawkes celebrations moved
- 48) Family target of paedo slur
- 49) OAP jailed for child sex abuse
- 50) Woman 'told PC to rape her'



SEPTEMBER

COURAGEOUS pensioner Harry Joseph leapt into the Guinness World Record Book by becoming the oldest man in the world to complete a 100ft abseil. Mr Joseph (97) successfully descended the Church Langley water tower, raising £600 for St Clare Hospice in the process.

THE town said goodbye to one of its longest-serving independent traders as the credit crunch claimed another victim. John Wilson Jewellers packed up shop after 18 years due to shrinking sales and ever-increasing overheads.

KIND-hearted Star readers came to the rescue of pensioner Bill Nichols who motorised scooter was stolen and set on fire by yobs. Two readers donated £100 and a used scooter to emphysema sufferer Mr Nichols, who had been left housebound after the theft.



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Sang Wah's role in theatre's film screening remit

A RECENT story in *Nostalgia* asking for memories of Harlow's first Chinese restaurant prompted several responses.

Regular correspondent Ron Bill recalled how a business meeting there saw a major development in the town's theatre remit.

He writes: "In 1966, when The Playhouse was under construction, consideration was given to the future film content of the programme. I knew John Huntley, then chairman of the British Film Institute.

"At that time, the institute was establishing a chain of regional film theatres in the major cities in the UK. I arranged for Martin Lawn, first chairman of the theatre trust, and myself to meet John in the Sang Wah for a meal and chat.

"He agreed that evening to provide £7,400 for the cost of the 16mm and 35mm projectors for The Playhouse and to recommend to the BFI board that Harlow should have a regional film theatre at The Playhouse, which they approved."

Among other readers sharing was Valerie Crockett, who booked a table at the Sang Wah for her hen night.

She was due to tie the knot on March 7, 1964 and went to the West Square restaurant with sister-in-law Annette and friend Josie, recalling: "We had a lovely meal, the restaurant staff were so very nice and helpful."

Space visitor's star attraction



By
LOUISE SASSOON

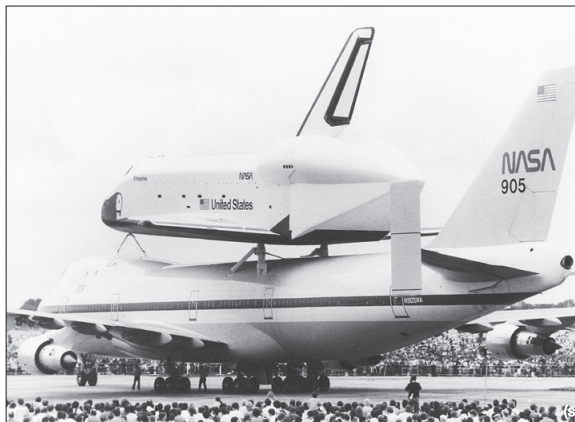
BACK to the future this week, to 1983 when the NASA space shuttle Enterprise flew over Harlow as part of a world tour.

The shuttle flew in piggybacking on a Boeing 747 airliner on June 5, landing at Stansted Airport.

Hundreds of people from Harlow and the surrounding area swarmed to the airport to catch a glimpse of the craft.

It was commissioned by NASA as a prototype and was used on test flights to prove the shuttle could fly in the Earth's atmosphere, although it never actually went into space.

The shuttle stayed at the airport for two days, in which time interest was so strong in Harlow that Thurston Aviation Service ran a helicopter service from the town's



helipad to Stansted for those who wanted to see it.

Some people were even lucky enough to witness the shuttle in the air as it was flown over Harlow to its next destination.

The Museum Of Harlow's David Devine told *Nostalgia* he was working at the STL building, now

Nortel, in London Road when he saw the shuttle.

"We were told it was due in that day and was going to be flying over that part of Harlow so we were all allowed to go out on to the roof and watch it. We could see it quite well and it seemed to be quite close by at the time."

FROM THE PAGES OF THE STAR . . . 25 YEARS AGO

TRAIN FARE INCREASE UNJUSTIFIED

British Rail's fare increases are unjustified, according to Harlow Commuter Association. They will mean an increase of £49 a year for the journey from Harlow Town to Liverpool Street and around £35 on the annual ticket to Oxford Street.

EXPANSION: THE BIG CLASH

Plans to expand Harlow over the next 10 years are likely to be rejected by Essex County Council. But Harlow Council says the expansion is vital if the town's falling population is to be stabilised.

PRIZED SERVICES COULD GO

Services in Harlow as they exist today could crumble within the next few years because of Government plans to cut local authority spending. That is the view of Stan Newens, the town's former Labour MP.

DON'T IGNORE THE JOBLESS

Unemployed centre supervisor Dave Bareham's New Year resolution is to ensure the town's jobless are not ignored in 1984. He told the *Star* that not enough was done in 1983 to make people aware of their plight.

Has anything in the columns of this week's *Nostalgia* jogged your memory? Why not share them with *Star* readers by writing to *Nostalgia*, Harlow *Star*, 6 West Gate, The High, Harlow, Essex CM20 1JW or send an email to star@hertsessexnews.co.uk

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions 132g/km. Lacetti 1.6 SX 5dr SW: Urban - 27.9 (10.1), Extra-urban - 44.1 (6.4), Combined - 36.2 (7.8). CO₂ emissions 181g/km. Matiz 1.0 SE 5dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 60.1 (4.7), Combined - 50.4 (5.6). CO₂ emissions 137g/km.

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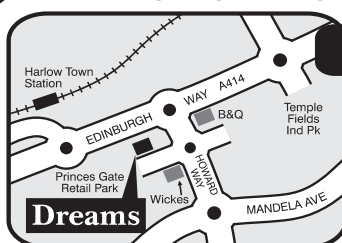
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Skydive trio's £1,200 target

A DAREDEVIL family are to take to the air for a sponsored skydive which will also serve as a memorial to a family member who died of cystic fibrosis.

Sam Patten (21), of Lower Meadow, Harlow, her sister Carly (19), of Tynley Croft, and her cousin Kelly Patten (25) are taking on the challenge to raise funds for Cystic Fibrosis Trust following the death of Sam's stepsister Samantha Mansfield, who died in March at the age of 19.

Samantha was a former pupil of Burnt Mill School and was brought up in the town.

The trio say the charity needs money to fund research for a cure for the disease. But before they can take part in the jump they need to raise £1,200 and are currently just under the £500 mark.

Kelly, who has already set up a Facebook group to spread word of their challenge and drum up support, said: "The trust has been really good and we have spoken to them and they have encouraged us to do the skydive. It would be nice to be able to give something back."

The skydive is scheduled to take place in February.

Sam added: "We would like to spread the message as far as we can. If anyone wants to find out more about the illness and the charity we are raising funds for, they should visit the website."

If you would like to sponsor the Pattens, visit their website at www.justgiving.com/kellysamanacda or rlypatten.

Keep on donating

BLOOD donors can now keep donating beyond their 70th birthday after service chiefs decided to remove the age limit prohibiting older donors.



SEEKING SPONSORS: Pictured, left to right, are Kelly, Sam and Carly (photo: FWMNVJR/01)

The decision was taken because of the improved health and fitness of older donors and paves the way for an additional 15,000 donations to flow into the blood service each year.

Lynda Hamlyn, chief executive of NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "Our older donors are amongst our most loyal and many of them want to keep giving beyond their 70th birthday."

"We continually review our donor criteria and given the steady improvement we have seen over recent years in the general fitness of our older donors, it is now safe for us to remove our upper age limit for donation."

"Those who have donated in the past two years will be able to continue giving as long as they meet our donor selection rules."

To find out more about becoming a blood donor, call the helpline on 0845 7711711 or log on to www.blood.co.uk.

Dedicated team

A GROUP of volunteers who assist visually impaired patients in hospital were recently rewarded for

their work.

The Harlow Sight Support Team, which works at the town's Princess Alexandra Hospital, was presented with the team prize at the annual volunteers' Christmas lunch.

Two individual prizes were given to Christine Clarke, who supports the medical secretaries, and William Harris, who sits on the meet-and-greet desk and also assists the staff on Harvey Ward.

Hospital staff were asked to nominate those they felt deserved an award in recognition of the services they provide.

The individual winners received cheques while the sight support team was presented with a plaque which will be displayed in the eye unit.

Robert Powell, chairman of the PAH NHS Trust, said: "We really value the contribution that all our volunteers make. Their dedication and commitment is unquestionable and without them the hospital would not be what it is."

For more information about becoming a volunteer, contact patient and public involvement co-ordinator Linda Howard on (01279) 827040.

Some useful telephone numbers

ADVICE CENTRE 2 East Gate, Harlow. Welfare rights and advice service, Monday-Friday 10am-4pm. Out-of-hours appointments and home visits for housebound people can be arranged. (01279) 446622.

ADVOCACY FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN HOSPITAL (01279) 649501.

ARE CONCERN HARLOW (01279) 415553 (office hours).

ARROPHORIA AND SOCIALPHORIA (01279) 304695.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (0845) 789555 (24-hour service).

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS ADVISORY SERVICE (West Essex) (01279) 438716 or 641347.

ALZHEIMER'S Harlow and District branch: (01279) 418331/432769.

ARTHRITIS CARE AND SUPPORT GROUP (01279) 86324.

ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER SUPPORT Monday 11am-3pm, Tuesday-Friday, 4.30-6pm. 07946 656986.

CANCER INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (01279) 69673 (Mon-Thu, 9.30am-2.30pm).

CARING FOR HARLOW CARERS (01279) 308314.

CATS PROTECTION (01992) 579539.

CHILDREN'S INFORMATION SERVICE (Essex) Information on registered childcare options, including special needs, activities and funding. Mon-Thurs 8.30am-5pm, Fri 8.30am-4pm. (01279) 440400.

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY HARLOW Rooms 1 and 2, The Advice Centre, 2 East Gate, Mon, Wed and Fri, 10am-12.30pm (drop in), 1.30-4pm (by appointment). Telephone advice: 10am-noon and 2-4pm. Legal

advice, Mon 5.30-7pm and occasional Thurs by appointment only. (0845) 1203717.

COMMUNITY DRUGS AND ALCOHOL (01279) 698721.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS 08451 232304.

COUNSELLING AND LIFE MANAGEMENT CENTRE (01279) 411330.

DYSLEXIA SUPPORT GROUP (01279) 833294.

EPILEPSY SUPPORT GROUP (01279) 724224/654264.

FAMILIES NEED FATHERS (01279) 654036 (Tom) service).

FAMILY PLANNING (01279) 694902.

FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP (07863 250350).

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS AND GAM-ANON (020) 7384 3040 (24 hour helpline).

GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION (01279) 428040 or 0845 4349585.

HARLOW ACCOMMODATION (01279) 861186 (Mon-Thu 10am-3pm, Friday 10am-2pm).

HARLOW BEREAVEMENT (0127 9) 453911, 626275 or 431175.

HARLOW CHILDHOODING ASSOCIATION (01279) 310690 or (01279) 454101.

HARLOW COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE (01279) 308308.

HARLOW AND DISTRICT BACK CHAIR (01279) 415664 or (01245) 231639.

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HARLOW STROKE SUPPORT (01279) 308313.

HARLOW THERAPY GROUP S(01279) 303287.

HARLOW TOL LIBRARY Kingsmoor House Family Centre, Paringdon Road, Open Monday 9.30-11.30am, Tuesday 9am-noon, Wednesday 9.30-11.30am, Thursday 1.30-4.30pm. (01279) 641958.

HARLOW VOLUNTEER BUREAU (01279) 308310/079107/075101.

HARLOW YOUTH COUNCIL (01279) 625713.

HERTS & ESSEX FAMILY MEDIATION SERVICE (01279) 426149, Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm, Friday 9am-4pm.

HIV/AIDS COUNSELLING AND TESTING (01245) 232414.

LEUKAEMIA CARE (01279) 402163/860196.

LIFE PREGNANCY CARE SERVICE (01279) 444154.

MARITAL COUNSELLING SERVICE (01279) 450285.

MERICAP (01279) 73402.

MERIKES AND TINTINUS HELPLINE (01279) 442594.

MIND SPURRIER'S HOUSE SOCIAL CENTRE Park Lane, Harlow. Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 11am-3pm. (01279) 445387.

MIR SUFI CENTRE (01279) 30131.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS East Herts and West Essex branch: 07880 828856, Epping Forest branch: (01992) 575237.

NHS DIRECT 24-hour helpline (0845) 4647.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER NETWORKS (HARLOW) 07704 891995.

OBESITY AWARENESS & SOLUTIONS TRUST 0845 0450225 (charged at local rate).

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS (01279) 322002.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE SOCIETY Harlow and district

branch. 07982 094194, 0208 508 2286 or 01279 431492.

PENSION SERVICE (0845) 6060265.

PET SEARCH Reuniting pets with their owners (01279) 320511.

RAINBOW SERVICES (Harlow) FURNITURE AND CLOTHING RECYCLING PROJECT (01279) 308151.

RELATE (01279) 423655.

RED CROSS (01279) 428569.

RISPCA Advice: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10am-1pm. (01279) 306058. Clinic: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 2-3pm. Out of hours 08705 555999.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE (08707) 657856.

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SEXUAL HEALTH - PAN HUS (01279) 694901.

SOCIAL SERVICES (01279) 434641.

TALKING NEWSPAPER FOR THE BLIND (01279) 413772.

VICTIM SUPPORT SCHEME (West Essex) (01279) 641074.

VOLAC PROJECT Organisation providing voluntary placements and training for people aged 16-25. (01279) 625172/625173.

WOMEN'S AID (01279) 836611.

WOMENSHED (01279) 306606. Monday-Friday drop-ins from 9am-1pm. Information, activities, advice and support for women.

YOUNG CARERS PROJECT (01279) 308314.

YOUNG CONCERN TRUST (01279) 414090.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S INFORMATION CENTRE (01279) 446815.

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DIAMOND Silentnight famous hippo and duck no Roll together Miracoil spring system, with luxurious Memory foam + 2 storage drawers.



SAVE £500
SALE PRICE
£499
was £999

Sleepeeze

SHADOW 850 Double divan with 800 Pocketed springs and a luxurious 50mm layer of Memory foam + 2 storage drawers.



SAVE £659
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SAVE £120
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POLES

LINENS

MATTRESSES

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WATFORD

Colne Valley Retail Park
Fairground Way
(inside Land Of Leather)
01923 257520

STEVENAGE

Roaring Meg Retail Park
Great North Road
01438 744440

HARLOW

Princes Gate
Edinburgh Way
(next to MFI)
01279 451911

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34 of our 49 home furnishing superstores have bed departments. Please go online for details or freephone 0800 444 400. We are open 7 days a week with free parking.

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to find your nearest store all goods subject to availability

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curtains, blinds, linens, nets & poles



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Mirage Natural fully lined energy saving curtains.
was from £34.99



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Adachi Cream fully lined energy saving curtains.
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CURTAINS

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POLES

LINENS

MATTRESSES

BEDS

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Roaring Meg Retail Park
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CHELMSFORD

Riverside Retail Park
Victoria Road
(next to Mothercare World)
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HARLOW

Princes Gate
Edinburgh Way
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**Get real!
Now!**

**Sale Ends
18th January!**



Matiz 1.0 SE 5dr
Down from ~~£6,908.62~~
Saving £913.62
to **£5,995**



Aveo 1.2 S 3dr
Down from ~~£7,535~~
Saving £1,340
to **£6,195**



Lacetti 1.6 SX 5dr SW
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Saving £2,400.64
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The Chevrolet range is designed for the real world. At even more realistic prices. Now standard on all models:
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Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £318.09, Lacetti and Aveo £342.55). Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Savings against current MRP and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 18th January 2009. Sale savings apply only to the specific models shown above. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions 132g/km. Lacetti 1.6 SX 5dr SW: Urban - 27.9 (10.1), Extra-urban - 44.1 (6.4), Combined - 36.2 (7.8). CO₂ emissions 181g/km. Matiz 1.0 SE 5dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 60.1 (4.7), Combined - 50.4 (5.6). CO₂ emissions 137g/km.

Star Family Notices

VIEW ONLINE AT www.harlowstar.co.uk/starannouncements

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Notices must conform to the house style of Herts & Essex Newspapers Ltd. The management reserves the right to alter copy to comply with this style. Announcements cannot be accepted over the phone. Birth announcements can only be accepted to appear in this paper provided they are signed by one or other of the parents. Engagements and forthcoming marriages require the signatures of both parties. All other announcements must be accompanied by the name, address and signature of the sender.

Deaths

ALAN GEORGE BLAKE

A much loved husband, dad and granddad passed away peacefully at Paternoster Nursing Home on 22-12-08. Always in our thoughts. Kath, Ruth, Colin, Michael and Lesa. All enquiries to Daniel Robinson, Wych Elm, Harlow.

ALICE MAUD DANVERS (1919-2008).

Passed away suddenly on 23rd December 2008.

The funeral will take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Friday 9th January 2009 at 2.30pm.

All our love Michael & Douglas.

All flowers and enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow, CM20 1QP. Tel: 01279 426990

WALTER FRANKHAM

Formerly of Windmill Fields passed away peacefully on December 20th 2008 aged 96 years.

Funeral to take place on Tuesday January 13th at 10am at Harlow Crematorium and afterwards at the Fox, Matching Tye.

Floral tributes or donations if desired to Alzheimer's c/o Co-operative Funeral Care, 20 High Street, Old Town, Harlow. CM17 0DW. 01279 441444.

Deaths

ELIZABETH CHRISTINA McMAHON (Lily)

(Formerly of Wedhey, Harlow).

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our Mum, after a short illness on Saturday 20th December, 2008 aged 80. A wonderful, kind, loving and devoted Mum and Grandmother, who will be sadly missed. The funeral service will take place on Wednesday 7th January, 2009 at 11.00am in St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Harlow followed by her burial at Parndon Wood Cemetery. Mum will be received into the Church on Tuesday 6th January, 2009 at 6.00 pm. Flowers and enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons Wych Elm, Harlow (Tel: 01279 426990)

IAN JOHNSON

Passed away suddenly on Friday 19th December 2008, aged 50 years.

Much loved Dad, Grandad, Brother and Uncle.

He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. The funeral will take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Tuesday 6th January 2009 at 3.30pm.

All enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Harlow. Tel 01279 426990

In Memoriam

LOUISE MAUD BASTOW

Passed away 2nd January 2007.

Still missing you. Love Pauline, Ronald, Patrick and Gordon

Acknowledgements

BRENDA FRANCIS Mick, Caron & Family wish to thank family, friends and neighbours for cards of sympathy, for attending the funeral. Please accept this as the only but most sincere acknowledgement.

Engagements

ROME : RICHARD-SON, Scott and Joanne. Many congratulations on your Engagement. Love and happiness to you both. Mum, Dad, Sam and Sav. xxxx

Birthdays

RICHARD AND LIAM ATTRIDGE



Happy 13th All our love, Mum and Dad xx

WARREN EELS



Happy 21st on 2nd January. Enjoy your day. Love you lots. From Nan & all your family xxx

Birthdays

JOY MAY



Happy 40th Birthday, 1st January 2009.

Lots of love Ethan & Wayne xxx

ROXANNE WELFARE

To a wonderful Granddaughter.



Happy Birthday. Lots of love from Nan & Grandad xxx

JAMES ALLEN

Happy 16th Birthday



Have a lovely day. Lots of love Mum, Dad, Rae, Rob and family. xx

LOOK WHO'S 40 LOUISE DAVEY



Love from Mark, Michael, James, Lee and all the family

WARREN EELS

Happy 21st Birthday on 2nd Jan



Have a lovely day. 2009 is going to be your year.

Love you lots, Mum & Gary xxx

21st BIRTHDAY WARREN EELS

To our son & brother.

Happy 21st.

Love Dad, Carolyn & Jack xx

21st BIRTHDAY WARREN EELS

2nd January 2008

To a wonderful Great Grandson on his 21st birthday.

Love Nanny Vi

21st BIRTHDAY WARREN EELS

2nd January 2008

Happy 21st Birthday With love

Glen, Claire, Charlotte, Lucy and Daniel

21st BIRTHDAY WARREN EELS

2nd January 2008

Wishing you a very happy 21st birthday

lots of love Grandad Derek

10th BIRTHDAY JAMIE WATERS

Happy 10th Birthday

Lots of love and kisses from Mummy, Daddy and Ashleigh, Nanny and Grandad, Kelly and Andy, Asha and Glen and Remi and Freddie.



Why not celebrate one of the many special occasions by placing a celebration box in the Mercury, Star Observer to commemorate the day.



Share the occasion

CELEBRATION BOXES

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|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Births | 11 You've Passed |
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| 3 Engagements | 13 Get Well Soon |
| 4 FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES | 14 Christening/Baptism |
| 5 Marriage Congratulations | 15 Silver Wedding |
| 6 Anniversaries | 16 Pearl Wedding |
| 7 Congratulations | 17 Ruby Wedding |
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| 9 Exam Honours | 19 Diamond Wedding |
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PHOTOBOXES

Set 1 celebration box including photograph

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Harlow Star.....£19.95

Set 2 celebration box including photograph

Observer.....£31.75

Mercury.....£42.75

Harlow Star.....£36.00



MUM
Happy Birthday
Rose Lucas
Best you thought we would all forget.
Enjoy your very special day.
Lots of love David, Sarah, Martin, John and all the family

Celebrate!!

Whatever the occasion; make it even more special by placing a celebration notice in the Family Announcement page...and let everyone share in your happiness.

Observer MERCURY Star

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1.8 Exclusive Sdr

NOW £8995 **SAVE £6591**

Deposit **£196** Per month **£196** **13.2%**

Includes 8 months NPL & £100 GM Card saving applied. Metallic paint cost option

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1.8 Life 12v 3dr, Flame Red

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Citroën Xsara Picasso
1.6 Desire

NOW £9882 **SAVE £5870**

Deposit **£209** Per month **£209** **12.6%**



Brand New
Citroën C4
1.6 16v Cachet Sdr, Arctic Steel

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Deposit **£233** Per month **£233** **12.5%**



Brand New
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1.4 Parisi, Black

NOW £8995 **SAVE £1681**

Deposit **£199** Per month **£199** **14.9%**



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0.8 Sdr

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Deposit **£399** Per month **£99** **14.1%**



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Chevrolet Captiva
CDi LX Auto 7 seats

NOW £13995 **SAVE FROM NEW £11650**

Deposit **£0** Per month **£299** **11.9%**



Brand New
Chevrolet Aveo
1.2 Sdr

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Deposit **£131** Per month **£131** **13.2%**

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Happy Birthday

TODAY

Jamie, (member 269) of Milwards, Harlow is 12 and retires from *Rangers*. **Eliza** (member 584), of Willow Place is 10

THURSDAY

Benjamin (member 599), of Chippingfield, Harlow is 5

FRIDAY

Mason (member 528), of Red Willow, Harlow is 10; **Jack** (member 383), of Little Pynchons, Harlow is 8

SUNDAY

Skye (member 909), of Longfield, Harlow is 3

MONDAY

Austin (member 683), of Old Orchard, Harlow is 9; **Kayleigh** (member 707), of Church Leys, Harlow is 8

TUESDAY

Sarah (member 544), of Ladyshot, Harlow is 12 and retires from *Rangers*. **Andrew** (member 442), of Heathcote Gardens, Harlow, and **Michael** (member 676), of Bentley Drive, Harlow, are both 11; **Luchia** (member 884), of Little Pynchons, Harlow is 6

So near, yet so far

YOU may have seen the television news reports about the Italian man who had to be rescued after trying to row across the Pacific Ocean.

Alex Bellini spent 10 months at sea and rowed more than 9,000 miles before bad weather forced him to call for help just 65 miles from his intended destination in Australia.

Bellini set out on the epic voyage from Peru in South America back in February. Had he successfully completed the trip, he would have become only the fifth man in history to row across the world's biggest ocean.

He was rescued by a tug boat from New Zealand after using a satellite mobile phone to contact his wife, Francesca, and ask for help. He finally

reached dry land on December 13.

Despite being so close to his destination, he was too exhausted to row the 22ft-long boat any further. He had survived for more than 300 days on dried food and ocean water from which he had to remove the salt before he could drink it.

He had also grown a bushy beard and lost a lot of weight. Once safely on shore, he said he was looking forward to getting back to Italy and tucking into his favourite foods: tiramisu and apple cake. And speaking of cake, Bellini said he was still happy with the journey he had made despite the fact that he was unable to complete it.

"I didn't put the cherry on top of the cake, but the cake is very good, very big and I will never forget about it," he told waiting reporters.



Fact File

NAME: Benjamin (member 599)

DATE OF BIRTH: January 1, 2004

ADDRESS: Chippingfield, Harlow

SCHOOL: Fawbert and Barnard Primary

HOBBIES: Gardening

DISLIKES: Going to bed

FAVOURITE FOOD: Brussels sprouts and broccoli

LEAST FAVOURITE FOOD: Mushrooms

FAVOURITE BOOK: *The Gruffalo*

FAVOURITE TV: *Tom and Jerry*

FAVOURITE SONG: *I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus*

FAMILY: Brother, Daniel (2)

WANTS TO BE: A builder

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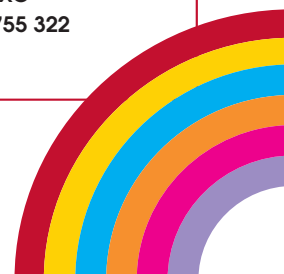
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Your stars with Patrick Arundell

to guide you through the week ahead

Aries Mar 21-Apr 20 You may not see yourself as a joiner - preferring to do your own thing, but we all need your connections to other Aquarius. This along with people and yours can be Venus, Neptune and particularly important Chiron sees you with a throughout 2009. sense of expectancy for However, the Quarter 2009's prospects. It will be Moon in your sign when Jupiter joins them suggests that the on Tuesday that you can influential people or really power forwards. If institutions that you find to you have an ounce of be heavy weather, will creative flair, this is your need to be handled chance to shine. Go wow! courteously, whatever the Call for your in-depth strains. Call now for more forecast...

Taurus Apr 21-May 21 Your place in the world may be under review. If this is not immediately obvious, it will be before long. But even if you choose a change of direction or circumstances dictate a new start, in the fullness of time this can be exactly what you need. Why? Because potentially, you've been hiding your talents under the bushel and now it's time to reach for gold. Call me for more astral advice...

Gemini May 22-Jun 21 As you contemplate your prospects for 2009, January can see you more on the move and than you might imagine. However, that doesn't mean that everything will go exactly to plan, so it will be important to stay clued up on worldly developments, especially affecting travel. This week, it can be an interview that you attend, that sees you journeying. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

Cancer Jun 22-Jul 23 If you have a fondness for learning, not only can you start looking for a new course to improve your knowledge or professional skills, this can also be a great way to meet people. Someone may also outline a business idea. Now, whilst you'd have every right to be rather sceptical, Cancer, there could be something about this that can start to intrigue you. Call me now for more astral advice...

Leo Jul 24-Aug 23 With luck, there's been a sweet and growing attraction for you as people what a fab new 2008 concluded, but this dawn the week can be when you Me? Well, I try to give a decide to make a firm commitment and even introduce your new beau to your friends and family. But in any type of on-far quicker than usual, going union, partnership will grow through genuine give and take. If this is time. However, a whole lacking, work on this raft of planetary support between you. Call for your love scope...

Virgo Aug 24-Sept 23 That old maxim of what we give out, will come back, doesn't always seem to ring true. After all, think of all the good deeds for the past, or living out a you've done in your time, recent drama. Is this Can you honestly say that each situation produced a matching response? No, of course not, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't try, it's try to be patient with just not an exact process. If yourself. If there are feelings you can, give of yourself more from now. Call me now for more advice...

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the guide



BABES AND BULLETS

Frank Miller's *The Spirit* is loose

cinema: page 18

Panto on a heigh-ho!

HEIGH-ho, heigh-ho, the annual panto's all systems go!

New Pantomime Productions' *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs* continues its run at The Playhouse in Harlow this week.

Complete with a pure heroine, an evil queen, a dashing prince to the rescue, a colourful band of dwarfs and a dame, the panto contains all the best-known songs from the classic animated Disney film.

Former *EastEnders* actress Michelle Gayle stars as Fairy Crystal, along side former *Gladiator* Trojan, aka Mark Griffin.

Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs continues at The Playhouse, with matinee and evening performances, until January 11.

For full details of prices and ticket availability, call the box office on (01279) 431945.



(photo: KTHCBRCY/05)

arts diary

BALLET

Harlow Ballet Association kicks off 2009 at The Playhouse with its *New Year Gala* on January 3 and 4 in The Studio, the climax of its winter course showcasing students' work in a variety of dance styles. The show will feature excerpts from *The Nutcracker*, the ballet association's full-length ballet for Easter 2009, works choreographed during the course itself, the first appearance of the youngest members of HBA plus the 20th Choreography Competition.

MUSIC The acclaimed Cropper/Welsh/Roscoe Piano Trio launch the *Around The Country* season of concerts at The Playhouse on January 18.

MUSIC The Syd Lawrence Orchestra brings a night of big band classics to The Playhouse on January 23.

gig guide

TONIGHT (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

BURNT MILL SNOOKER & SOCIAL CLUB, Edinbrough Way, Harlow – Blue Print

HERALD, Broadley Road, Harlow – Triple X

PURPLE EMPEROR, Momples Hatch, Harlow – Repertoire Dogs

THE SQUARE, Fourth Avenue, Harlow – New Year's Eve Party (admission by ticket only)

FRIDAY

PURPLE EMPEROR, Momples Road, Harlow – Scam 69

SATURDAY

PURPLE EMPEROR, Momples Road, Harlow – Stacey Lee

SHARK, Hobtoe Road, Harlow – Repertoire Dogs

SUNDAY

THE SQUARE, Fourth Avenue, Harlow – comedy night hosted by John Mann and featuring Nick Revell, Geoff Norcott and Dave Ward

sound check 2008 awards extravaganza with chris moss

SICK to the back teeth with the NME Cool List? Fed up with interminable, inevitable and entirely predictable end-of-the-year charts, best-ofs, if-onlys, near-misses and what-ifs? Does the mere thought of re-reading subtly amended versions of the same reviews, previews and general hyperbolic chit-chat you've already been subjected to ad nauseum throughout 2008 send you into a despairing cold sweat? No? Are you sure? Wouldn't you rather go carolling or collect some walnuts or something? No sweaters to knit? Well, don't say I didn't warn you ...

THE ELVIS PRESLEY '68 COMEBACK SPECIAL AWARD FOR TRIUMPH IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

goes to ... The Square, for making a triumphant return to the forefront of Harlow's blossoming live music scene when all seemed lost. While Essex County Council couldn't trust the average gig-goer to multi-task – i.e. drink and watch bands at the same time – possibly because they might spill some and make the floor all slippery, the SquareOne Partnership re-opened the bar, opened another bar, and built yet another bar. Oh, and they put some quite spectacular bands, club and comedy nights on too, lest we forget.

THE DAVID BOWIE AWARD FOR MOST ASTONISHING COSTUME CHANGE

goes to ... Club Quattro, for its remarkable overnight transformation from a glitzy R&B hangout frequented by the perma-tan bling brigade to the rowdy rock'n'roll sweat-pit we've grown to love. It took guts, guile and an awful lot of spray-paint to make it this far, but here's hoping it never looks back.

THE 'THEY SOUND A BIT LIKE VAMPIRE WEEKEND, DON'T THEY?' AWARD FOR BEST NEWCOMERS

goes to ... Monday Arms, for sounding a bit like Vampire Weekend and thus being rather good. It's been a tough old year for the Arms – growing tired of the modish punk snarl of their early material, they've completely revamped their sound and are getting ready to blow you away in the New Year with some blissful, jaunty pop-punk.

THE JOE STRUMMER WOULD BE PROUD AWARD FOR BEST EP

goes to ... The Summons, for their easy-skanking, roots rocking, nu-calypto, ska revivalist, body-popping (that's enough – Ed) math-rock reggae debut EP *Wasteland*. A heady brew of brooding dub guitar,

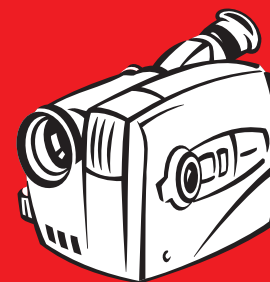
rumbling boom-bass and gloriously laconic vocals, this bobs, weaves and rocks like a boxer on hot coals.

THE JIMI HENDRIX AWARD FOR RIFFS AS BIG AS MOUNTAINS

goes to ... The Stolen Coda and JB3. Ladies and gentlemen, we have a tie! That's right – both bands are blessed with the cosmic ability to make their guitars weep, sing and probably do the Hoovering at the same time, while somehow managing to avoid the proggy excesses of month-long solos, bizarre trousers and cod-mystical ramblings. Well done!

TOP 5 GIGS OF THE YEAR, IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER

- Steve Diggle, Newtown Neurotics & The Hateful at The Square
- Five O'Clock Heroes, Fox Cubs, New Town Pioneers, Messengers & 33 Revolutions at Quattro
- Little Man Tate, Inner City Pirates & Monday Arms at The Square
- No Nothings, The Brights, The Stolen Coda & Gazy Roxx at Quattro
- Wilko Johnson & Blah Blah Blah at The Square



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Spirited cop back from the grave as a ladykiller

THE SPIRIT

certificate 12A, running time 1h42m

AFTER sharing the director's credit for *Sin City* with Robert Rodriguez, comics guru Frank Miller goes solo for this adaptation of his own updating of Will Eisner's pulp character The Spirit.

From the extensive use of green-screen filming with artificial environments dropped in to the largely monochrome palette with bursts of colour, it looks as if he's lifting *Sin City*'s style wholesale.

Blending elements of film noir with adventure and romance, *The Spirit* is the story of a young cop who's killed only to return from the grave as the mysterious crimefighter The Spirit (Gabriel Macht).

His arch enemy The Octopus (Samuel L. Jackson, sporting a haircut more villainous than his character) is planning to destroy The Spirit's beloved Central City while pursuing his own shot at immortality.

And as the masked crimefighter tracks his nemesis through rundown warehouses, dank catacombs and fog-shrouded waterfronts, he also has to run a gauntlet of beautiful women (including Scarlett Johansson, Sara Paulson, Paz Vega, Jaime King and Stana Katic) who variously want to seduce, mislead or kill him.

He's further tangled up emotionally with Sand Saref (Eve Mendes), a jewel thief with dangerous curves who's the love of his life turned bad – but can he redeem her before she finishes him off?



LADIES' MAN:
Gabriel Macht
stars in *THE SPIRIT* (S)

also on release



YES MAN

certificate 12A running time 1h44m

FOR Carl Allen, life is going nowhere until he learns to say 'Yes!'.

Based on the book by Danny Wallace, director Peyton Reed's comedy follows the cantankerously negative Carl (Jim Carrey, pictured above), who's always refused every opportunity.

All this changes when he signs up for a self-help programme based on the premise of saying 'yes' to anything and everything.

It's not long before Carl has a whole new world of opportunity open up for him, from all-night parties and learning Korean to bungee jumping and flying lessons.

It's also working wonders for his career and personal life. But could his new and relentlessly upbeat approach to living actually be too much of a good thing?

still showing

AUSTRALIA Epic Outback romance set on the eve of the Second World War.

BEDTIME STORIES Adam Sandler tries to cash in on tales that come true.

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA The New York Zoo escapees head for their homeland.

TWILIGHT Angry teen vampires and humans fall in love.

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18:45, 21:00

AUSTRALIA (12A)
12:30, 16:15, 20:00

BEDTIME STORIES (PG)
(11:15 Fri, Sat, Sun Only), 13:30, 15:45,
18:00, 20:15

YES MAN (12A)
(11:30 Fri, Sat, Sun Only), 13:45, 16:10,
18:30, 20:50

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Paul Newman selects the best DVD releases of 2008

The action film as stripped-down myth

IN a year of so many great movies, it's almost unfair to proclaim only one of them the best but, push comes to shove, Sylvester Stallone's **RAMBO** takes the title for sheer exhilarating entertainment and for pulling off the finest resurrection since Burke & Hare were in business.

Shackled to a pair of gormless sequels, it's easy to forget how good an action movie *First Blood* was (and still is) and the news that a 61-year-old Stallone was once more strapping on the hardware to write, direct and star in a fourth didn't sound promising.

But after he delivered such a rousing, moving final chapter to the Rocky saga in *Rocky Balboa*, we should have had more faith – *Rambo* is the combat action flick stripped down to its primal essence, with a rescue mission into Burma all the opportunity the cynical Vietnam vet needs to seek redemption in a roaring gale of bullets and bodies. In a curious and touching echo, John J Rambo showed up again (sort of) to be played by Eric Sykes in the charming childhood remembrance **SON OF RAMBOW**, with a young Christian boy sheltered from popular culture flipping out over a pirate VHS of *First Blood* and vowing to help his friend film their own sequel.

Elsewhere, 2008 was the year the big studios finally got superheroes right, translating the characters from their three-colour origins with an often dazzling combination of wit, style and action. Jon Favreau's genius casting of Robert Downey Jr ensured **IRON MAN** got a flying start, closely followed by Ed Norton in **THE**



INCREDIBLE HULK, Chris Nolan's classy, grim **THE DARK KNIGHT** and Guillermo del Toro's fantasy extravaganza **HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY**.

It was also a strong year for drama. **CONTROL** perfectly captured the tragic life and incredible music of Joy Division's Ian Curtis and a similarly bleak post-Thatcher British landscape was brought vividly to life in the groundbreaking **RADIO ON!**; fans of crime thrillers had their plates heaped with sterling work from Philip Seymour Hoffman in **BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD**, Ben Affleck showing he's better behind the camera than in front of it with **GONE BABY GONE** and David Fincher offering a tense time machine back to 1960s San Francisco in **ZODIAC: DIRECTOR'S CUT**;

and Daniel Day Lewis gave a simply incredible portrait of amoral ambition in Paul Thomas Anderson's **THERE WILL BE BLOOD**, a saga of family, greed, religion and oil.

With the West still gripped by anxieties as diverse as terrorism, peak oil and economic collapse, it's no surprise that horror films had another solid year; best of the crop was Frank Darabont's relentless, downbeat adaptation of Stephen King's **THE MIST**, while the hugely impressive **CLOVERFIELD** showed just how good first-person shakycam could be and **30 DAYS OF NIGHT** made vampires scary again.

The double bill *Grindhouse* was unfortunately split into its constituent parts, missing the point but at least allowing us to enjoy Kurt Russell's lunatic turn as a killer stunt driver in

Quentin Tarantino's over-talky **DEATH PROOF** and Rose McGowan fighting off a gloopy zombie outbreak with a machine gun false leg in Robert Rodriguez's **PLANET TERROR**; Brit director Neil Marshall shamelessly plundered *Escape From New York* and *Mad Max 2* for the trashy excitements of **DOOMSDAY**; Billy Connolly showed up as a curiously romantic zombie in the delightful satire **FIDO**; and TV critic Charlie Brooker put his money where his mouth was, and then some, to make **DEAD SET**, unleashing hordes of the walking dead on the *Big Brother* house in the finest domestic small screen horror series in years.

On the fantasy front was the gripping animated **BEOWULF**, the dreamlike and unpredictable 1960's Polish gem **THE SARAGOSSA MANUSCRIPT**, the classic teen TV drama **THE OWL SERVICE** and a gorgeous re-release of Jean Cocteau's timeless **LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE**.

It was also a year with rich pickings on the documentary front, particular Michael Moore's exposé of the US health system's many shortcomings in **SICKO**, John Pilger's sobering **THE WAR ON DEMOCRACY** and a distressing glimpse at the underbelly of the War On Terror in **TAXI TO THE DARK SIDE**. For lighter entertainment, it's hard to beat the epic Brian Jonestown Massacre versus The Dandy Warhols clash of **DIG!**, dozens of trashy delights in **GRINDHOUSE TRAILER CLASSICS 2** and the transcendental pleasures of the visual hymn to nature that was **BARAKA**.

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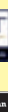
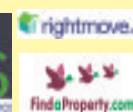
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08/08	Fiesta 5Dr Hatch 1.4i Zetec Climate Panther Black 6,200 miles	£7,989	£7,489	£500	£1,498	£139
08/08	Fiesta 3Dr Hatch 1.4i Zetec Climate Moon dust Silver 1,125 miles	£7,789	£7,489	£300	£1,498	£139
06/06	Fiesta 3Dr Hatch 2.0i ST 150 PS Colorado Red 14,986 miles	£7,989	£7,689	£300	£1,538	£142
07/57	Fiesta 5Dr Hatch 1.4 Tdci Zetec Climate Amethyst 15,021 miles	£7,989	£7,889	£100	£1,578	£146
08/57	Fiesta 5Dr Hatch 1.4 Tdci Ghia Panther Black 6,013 miles	£8,489	£7,989	£500	£1,598	£148
08/08	Fiesta 3Dr Hatch 1.6i Zetec S Moon dust Silver 10,481 miles	£8,989	£8,389	£600	£1,678	£155
08/08	Fiesta 5Dr Hatch 1.4 Tdci Zetec Climate Moon dust Silver 7,599 miles	£8,798	£8,489	£309	£1,698	£157
08/57	Fiesta 3Dr Hatch 1.6 Tdci Zetec S Moon dust Silver 9,423 miles	£9,989	£8,789	£1,200	£1,758	£162
07/57	Fiesta 3Dr Hatch 2.0i ST 150 PS Moon dust Silver 4,990 miles	£9,489	£9,289	£200	£1,858	£171
Fusion						
05/05	Fusion 2 5Dr Hatch 1.4i Durashift Ink Blue 15,408 miles	£5,989	£5,189	£800	£1,038	£97
05/55	Fusion 2 5Dr Hatch 1.6i Panther Black 11,842 miles	£5,989	£5,689	£300	£1,138	£106
05/55	Fusion 5Dr Hatch 1.6i Zetec Auto Climate Moon dust Silver 11,441 miles	£6,789	£6,489	£300	£1,298	£121
06/06	Fusion 5Dr Hatch 1.4i Plus Durashift Amethyst 12,682 miles	£6,989	£6,689	£300	£1,338	£124
08/57	Fusion 5Dr Hatch 1.4i Style Climate Durashift Sublime 2,064 miles	£7,189	£6,989	£200	£1,398	£130
C-Max						
05/05	C-Max 5Dr Hatch 1.8i Zetec Moon dust Silver 41,911 miles	£5,989	£4,989	£1,000	£998	£94
05/55	C-Max 5Dr Hatch 1.8i LX Moon dust Silver 41,495 miles	£5,489	£4,989	£500	£998	£94
04/04	C-Max 5Dr Hatch 2.0 Tdci Ghia Machine Silver 43,444 miles	£6,989	£5,989	£1,000	£1,198	£112
04/04	C-Max 5Dr Hatch 1.6 Tdci Zetec Auto Tonic Lt Blue 25,100 miles	£6,489	£5,989	£500	£1,198	£112
08/57	C-Max 5Dr Hatch 1.8i Style Ocean Blue 8,951 miles	£8,989	£8,489	£500	£1,698	£157
07/07	C-Max 5Dr Hatch 1.6 Tdci Zetec 110 PS Ocean Blue 27,391 miles	£8,989	£8,489	£500	£1,698	£157
07/56	C-Max 5Dr Hatch 1.6 Tdci Ghia Auto Panther Black 6,440 miles	£9,289	£8,989	£300	£1,798	£166
07/57	C-Max 5Dr Hatch 1.8 Tdci Zetec 125 PS Tonic Lt Blue 6,166 miles	£10,289	£9,989	£300	£1,998	£184
KA						
05/55	Ka 3Dr Hatch 1.3i Collection Tonic Lt Blue 17,077 miles	£4,489	£4,389	£100	£878	£83
Focus						
04/04	Focus 5Dr Estate 1.8i Ghia Panther Black 28,572 miles	£5,989	£4,789	£1,200	£958	£90
05/05	Focus 5Dr Estate 1.6i Zetec Auto Climate Panther Black 21,357 miles	£6,989	£5,989	£1,000	£1,198	£112
06/06	Focus 4Dr Saloon 2.0i Ghia Ink Blue 38,333 miles	£6,989	£5,989	£1,000	£1,198	£112
05/05	Focus 5Dr Hatch 2.0i Ghia Auto Tonic Lt Blue 20,352 miles	£6,989	£6,489	£500	£1,298	£121
05/55	Focus 5Dr Estate 1.6i Zetec Climate 115 PS Moon dust Silver 24,151 miles	£7,389	£6,489	£900	£1,298	£121
06/06	Focus 5Dr Hatch 1.6i LX 100 PS Jeans 2,732 miles	£6,989	£6,789	£200	£1,358	£126
06/55	Focus 5Dr Hatch 1.6i Style LX Moon dust Silver 30,264 miles	£7,489	£6,789	£700	£1,358	£126
05/05	Focus 5Dr Hatch 2.0i Ghia Moon dust Silver 6,794 miles	£7,489	£6,989	£500	£1,398	£130
07/57	Focus 5Dr Hatch 1.6i Style 100 PS Tonic Lt Blue 9,309 miles	£7,489	£6,989	£500	£1,398	£130
06/06	Focus 5Dr Estate 1.8 Tdci Ghia Tonic Lt Blue 42,995 miles	£7,689	£6,989	£700	£1,398	£130
06/56	Focus 5Dr Estate 2.0i Ghia Auto Moon dust Silver 20,059 miles	£7,689	£7,489	£200	£1,498	£139
06/06	Focus 5Dr Hatch 2.0i Titanium Auto Aquarius Blue 14,485 miles	£7,989	£7,689	£300	£1,538	£142
07/57	Focus 5Dr Hatch 1.6i Zetec Auto Climate Moon dust Silver 23,142 miles	£7,989	£7,689	£300	£1,538	£142
07/07	Focus 5Dr Hatch 1.6i Sport 100 PS Moon dust Silver 10,387 miles	£7,989	£7,689	£300	£1,538	£142
05/05	Focus 4Dr Saloon 2.0 Tdci Titanium Aquarius Blue 8,737 miles	£8,989	£7,989	£1,000	£1,598	£148
07/57	Focus 5Dr Hatch 1.8 Tdci Zetec Climate 115 PS Ocean Blue 22,491 miles	£9,989	£8,489	£1,500	£1,698	£157

		WAS	NOW	SAVE	DEPOSIT	60 MONTHLY PAYMENTS
Focus						
06/06	Focus 5Dr Hatch 1.8 Tdci Titanium Tonic Lt Blue 19,721 miles	£8,989	£8,489	£500	£1,698	£157
07/57	Focus 5Dr Hatch 1.8 Tdci Zetec 115 PS Panther Black 19,262 miles	£9,689	£8,589	£1,100	£1,718	£158
07/57	Focus CC-3 2Dr Convertible 2.0i Pitch Black 5,880 miles	£10,989	£8,989	£2,000	£1,798	£166
08/08	Focus 5Dr Hatch 1.6i Style 100 PS Ocean Blue 8,485 miles	£9,289	£8,989	£300	£1,798	£166
08/57	Focus 5Dr Hatch 1.6i Zetec Avalon 6,067 miles	£10,489	£9,989	£500	£1,998	£184
08/57	Focus 5Dr Hatch 1.8 Tdci Zetec 115 PS Avalon 13,307 miles	£10,989	£10,489	£500	£2,098	£192
06/56	Focus 3Dr Hatch 2.5i ST-2 225 PS Colorado Red 8,935 miles	£11,989	£10,989	£1,000	£2,198	£201
08/08	Focus 3Dr Hatch 2.5i ST-2 225 PS Panther Black 5,370 miles	£15,489	£14,989	£500	£2,998	£273
Mondeo						
05/55	Mondeo 5Dr Hatch 2.0 Tdci LX 130 PS Pepper Red 58,414 miles	£5,189	£4,989	£200	£998	£94
06/56	Mondeo 5Dr Hatch 2.0 Tdci Ghia 115 PS Blue Ambition 46,493 miles	£6,989	£6,789	£200	£1,358	£126
06/06	Mondeo 5Dr Hatch 2.2 Tdci Titanium 155 PS Panther Black 35,101 miles	£8,289	£7,989	£300	£1,598	£148
07/07	Mondeo 5Dr Hatch 2.0i Zetec Panther Black 28,906 miles	£8,989	£8,489	£500	£1,698	£157
07/07	Mondeo 5Dr Hatch 2.2 Tdci ST 155 PS Panther Black 27,466 miles	£11,789	£9,989	£1,800	£1,998	£184
07/07	Mondeo 5Dr Hatch 2.0 Tdci Edge 140 PS Sea Grey 5,603 miles	£10,989	£9,989	£1,000	£1,998	£184
08/57	Mondeo 5Dr Hatch 1.6i Edge Sea Grey 7,916 miles	£10,989	£9,989	£1,000	£1,998	£184
07/57	Mondeo 5Dr Hatch 1.8 Tdci Zetec 125 PS Ink Blue 11,986 miles	£10,789	£10,489	£300	£2,098	£192
07/57	Mondeo 5Dr Hatch 1.8 Tdci Zetec 125 PS Panther Black 12,608 miles	£10,789	£10,489	£300	£2,098	£192
07/57	Mondeo 5Dr Estate 2.0 Tdci Edge 140 PS Blue Ambition 18,660 miles	£11,989	£11,489	£500	£2,298	£210
07/57	Mondeo 5Dr Hatch 1.8 Tdci Zetec 125 PS Frozen White 14,592 miles	£12,489	£11,989	£500	£2,398	£219
07/57	Mondeo 5Dr Hatch 2.5i Titanium X 220 PS Thunder Grey 14,123 miles	£13,989	£12,489	£1,500	£2,498	£228
07/07	Mondeo 5Dr Hatch 2.0 Tdci Titanium X 140 PS Thunder Grey 17,241 miles	£14,989	£12,989	£2,000	£2,598	£237
08/57	Mondeo 5Dr Hatch 1.8 Tdci Titanium 125 PS Panther Black 3,656 miles	£15,489	£12,989	£2,500	£2,598	£237
S-Max						
07/07	S-Max 5Dr 7st 2.0 Tdci Zetec 140 PS Machine Silver 67,129 miles	£10,989	£9,689	£1,300	£1,938	£178
06/56	S-Max 5Dr 7st 1.8 Tdci Zetec 125 PS Stardust Silver 13,874 miles	£12,989	£11,989	£1,000	£2,398	£219
07/07	S-Max 5Dr 7st 2.5i Titanium 220 PS Blue Ambition 19,473 miles	£12,789	£12,489	£300	£2,498	£228
07/07	S-Max 5Dr 7st 2.0 Tdci Titanium X 140 PS Tonic Lt Blue 17,082 miles	£14,989	£13,989	£1,000	£2,798	£255
08/57	S-Max 5Dr 7st 2.0 Tdci Zetec Auto 130 PS Panther Black 9,061 miles	£14,989	£14,489	£500	£2,898	£264
08/08	S-Max 5Dr 7st 1.8 Tdci Zetec 125 PS Moon dust Silver 4,577 miles	£14,989	£14,489	£500	£2,898	£264
Galaxy						
05/05	Galaxy 5Dr 7st 2.3i Zetec Auto Satin Silver 19,424 miles	£7,489	£6,989	£500	£1,398	£130
07/57	Galaxy 5Dr 7st 2.3i Ghia Auto 161 PS Tango Red 15,271 miles	£14,989	£13,989	£1,000	£2,798	£255
Mitsubishi						
08/08	Lancer 4Dr Saloon 1.6i Elegance Auto Cool Silver 5,084 miles	£7,489	£6,989	£500	£1,398	£130
06/06	L200 2.5 Di-D D/cab 4x4 Warrior Starlight Silver 50,464 miles	£10,989	£9,989	£1,000	£1,798	£166
05/55	Grandis 5Dr 7st 2.0 Di-D Warrior Sterling Silver 32,634 miles	£10,989	£9,989	£1,000	£1,998	£184
07/07	L200 2.5 Di-D D/cab 4x4 Trojan Cosmos Black 14,168 miles	£10,989	£9,989	£1,000	£1,998	£184
08/08	L200 2.5 Di-D D/cab 4x4 Animal Cosmos Black 3,943 miles	£15,489	£13,989	£1,500	£2,798	£255
07/57	Outlander 5Dr 7st 2.0 Di-D Warrior Stone Grey 27,044 miles	£15,649	£14,989	£660	£2,998	£273
06/56	Evo IX 4Dr Saloon 2.0i FQ-360 Electric Blue 17,578 miles	£21,989	£19,989	£2,000	£3,998	£363
Mazda						
07/07	Mazda 6 5Dr Hatch 2.0i TS Velocity Red 4,682 miles	£8,489	£7,989	£500	£1,598	£148
08/08	Mazda 2 5Dr Hatch 1.5i Sport Golden Yellow 4,987 miles	£10,289	£9,989	£300	£1,998	£184
07/07	Mx-5 2Dr Convertible 2.0i Sport Brilliant Black 2,187 miles	£12,489	£11,689	£800	£2,338	£214

Typical finance example for Mondeo 5dr Hatch 2.0i Zetec: Cash Price £8,489.00; Deposit £1,697.80; Amount of credit £6,791.20; Total charge for credit £2,700.44 (includes £95 purchase fee and £195.00 Credit Facility Fee); Balance payable £9,491.64; Total amount payable £11,189.44; 1 Monthly Payment £195.00; 58 monthly payments of £155.96; Followed by a final purchase payment of £250.96. Licensed credit brokers, written quotations on request. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. All figures are correct at time of going to press. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

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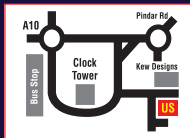
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CRICKETER LIFTS LID ON LIFE AS THE SON OF A SEVENTIES ICON

By **DAVID RIMMER**

rimmerd@hertsessexnews.co.uk

CRICKETERS can often be conservative or bombastic but Danny Wilson does not fit into either of those categories.

The 31-year-old Sawbridgeworth first team captain and son of former Hot Chocolate bass guitarist Tony Wilson has that indescribable quality that is absent in many sportsmen.

Wilson, who lives in Old Harlow, thinks outside the box and has a sense of timing his father would have had in the music world.

Tony Wilson emigrated from the West Indies to London in the 1960s. His son was born in Paddington.

A big factor in Danny being drawn to cricket was the great 1984 West Indies side.

Captained by Clive Lloyd, they hammered England 5-0 in a Test series and Wilson junior remembers watching them as a child.

"I was mesmerised by Viv Richards, Desmond Haynes and Gordon Greenidge and of course the fast bowlers like Michael Holding and Joel Garner. I just wanted to repeat what they did," he said.

"I lived in London at the time and I remember the atmosphere and the big crowd."

Danny fostered his love for the game by watching TV and practising with his father.

"Most of the time I was playing cricket in the back garden and in those days the cricket was shown on the BBC."

Danny started to play at eight and was helped by elder brother Robert and step-brother Nick Maley. However, he recalls that it was not easy to progress through the schools route.

He played for Farnham, before county recognition from Essex came his way and he starred for both the U-19 side and the second XI.

"When I was at school [Firs Primary and St Mary's RC, both in Bishop's Stortford] rugby and football were the sports and cricket was not high on the agenda," he said.

"I was considered to be more of a bowler and when I hurt my back I developed my batting."

After impressing sufficiently he got the call to the Essex first team in 1996 and faced South Africa A.

Wilson took 2-40 and scored 52 not out in the county's defeat to the tourists.

"Alan Lilley, a coach at the time told me I was going to play. South Africa A had good players like Gerry Liedenberg, Herschelle Gibbs and Lance Klusener," he said. "It felt surreal. I was playing for Farnham a couple of weeks earlier and now I was playing for Essex."

"It was a big step up in standard. I remember the pace of the bowling was quicker and the fielding was much better – I remember hitting four or five balls to either side of Herschelle Gibbs [at cover point] and he stopped the lot."

"I had a good match and I remember a guy telling me as I left the ground that he had put a tenner on at 16-1 on



TOP OF THE POPS: Bass player Tony Wilson, circled, with his Hot Chocolate band. Wilson wrote most of the songs including *Everyone's a Winner* and *You Sexy Thing*

Everyone's a winner with captain Wilson

FACTFile

Sawbridgeworth debut: 1997.

Years played: 1997-present.

Matches: 177

Batting - Innings: 170

Not outs: 24

Runs: 5,196

Highest score: 129* (v B Stortford, 20-07-08)

Average: 35.58

100s: 9 **50s:** 23 **Fours:** 580 **Sixes:** 58

Highest League score: 126* (v North Mymsms, 09-06-08)

Average: 36.51

Bowling - overs: 958.2

Maidens: 139

Wickets: 163

Average: 22.86

Best bowling: 6-14 (v Knebworth Park, 02-05-98)

5 wkt innings: 3

Fielding - catches: 78

NB: Statistics compiled by Richard White

ACTION DAN: Sawbridgeworth skipper Danny Wilson, inset, and in action earlier this year



me being the highest scorer and I was pleased to have helped him."

A few appearances for Essex followed but Wilson was unable to nail down a regular place and left the first class game.

The Sawbridgeworth skipper is philosophical about his time with Essex and has great admiration for those that play the game at the top level.

"Essex had all-rounders like Danny Law, Stuart Law and Ronnie Irani. I was in the wrong place at the wrong time. If I had concentrated on one discipline, I may have done better," he said.

"If you have been playing for a length of time, over five years you have done very well. Cricket is a very taxing game and at that level it is very intense. You live and breathe it. You get found out if you are not 100 per cent."

Wilson went on to play for Cambridge Granta and subsequently his achievements with bat and ball for Sawbridgeworth have been a strong part of the local cricket scene.

For this commentator, some of his innings have been a joy to behold, marked by the richness of his strokeplay and deft timing.

More importantly, he has been a shrewd skipper of Sawbridgeworth for five years after teaming up with the Town Fields club in the latter part of the 2003 season.

Captaincy involves many things including setting batting orders, selecting balanced teams, motivating players and encouraging young talent to come through.

Wilson's captaincy in the field has been fascinating to observe – he has not been afraid to go for an unorthodox field placing or to perm his bowlers.

However, he is still waiting for the team to win something under his leadership.

"Captaincy is not an exact science. You have to be one step ahead of the [opposing] batsmen and try and out-think them," he said.

"Sometimes you have to think left side and it can come off but there is a lot of luck to it."

He added: "We have the potential [to win a trophy] and I hope that success is not too long in coming. At the moment I see a side that is under-achieving. I want to win."

"I want to win something as captain and will not be giving up as captain until I have."

Only time will tell if Wilson's wish for a trophy is fulfilled but one thing is for sure – his presence has enriched local cricket almost as much as his father's did for music lovers.

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Let's go for a Burton



TEAM TALK:
New Hawks boss Glen Alzapiedi talks to Harlow's long-serving physio Paul West-Hook (Q72BSQML04)

GLEN Alzapiedi was hoping to complete the signing of utility player Paul Burton from Ware last night (Tuesday).

Alzapiedi has already brought six players from his old club Ware after he joined Harlow Town as manager last week.

Burton, who can play at right-back or central midfield, used to play for Oxford United in the Football League.

Alzapiedi said: "He's a quick passer and plays with the level of intensity I want from my players. He will come

By **DAVID RIMMER**
rimmerd@hertsessexnews.co.uk

into the squad for the Dartford game." Midfielder Leon Lalite and right-back Mark Taylor both start four-game suspensions and miss this Saturday's league game at Dartford.

Lalite was sent off against Margate 11 days ago, while Taylor is banned after the red card he picked up against Hendon 15 day ago. Both dismissals were for violent conduct, carrying automatic four-match suspensions.

Having got his reign off to a tremendous start (see report below), Alzapiedi was upbeat ahead of the trip to Kent. "I'm determined that we can build on

what we did against Hornchurch. I will be speaking to a club who have played Dartford recently," he said.

Harlow host Heybridge Swifts in the third round of the Isthmian League Cup on Tuesday. "We will have a number of players cup tied for this one. It's not as important as the Dartford and Maidstone United [January 10] games," Alzapiedi explained.

Central defender Danny Chapman and left-back Beckett Hollenbach have left the Hawks since Alzapiedi took charge on December 22.

Hollenbach's berth has been taken by ex-Ware player Michael Bardle. Alzapiedi said: "I am aiming for pace at the back and Michael is a very good player."

Great start for new Hawks boss Alzapiedi

Harlow Tn 4,
AFC Hornchurch 1
(Ryman League, premier division)

SMILES replaced gloomy faces at Barrows Farm as Hawks marked their first game under Glen Alzapiedi with a convincing home victory over AFC Hornchurch, writes **DAVID RIMMER**.

It was Harlow's first win in nine matches and lifted them to 17th in the table.

Saturday's clash had an interesting twist as Ryan Kirby – sacked as Hawks player-boss seven days previously – came on as a substitute for the Urchins.

His old team played with zest and were improved by six new signings from Ware, Alzapiedi's old club.

Midfielder Sam Berry capped a fine debut with two goals while Danny Gudgeon and Laurie Stewart were steady at the back. Other Ware recruits were strikers John Frendo and Chris Ellerbeck, plus left-back Michael Bardle.

Harlow maintained their composure even when Bardle was sent off on 75 minutes after fouling Hornchurch forward Kris Lee.

The hosts were 3-1 up at that stage.

Alzapiedi told **Star Sport** afterwards: "There was a will to win and when we went back in front [at 2-1] we looked the more dangerous side. That was even the case when we went down to 10!"

Frankie Curley was booked after 11 minutes after a second bad challenge on Leon



VITAL OPENER: Mark Taylor, right, is congratulated by Harlow debutant Danny Gudgeon (4) after opening the scoring against AFC Hornchurch (Q72BSQML08)

Lalite and three minutes later the hosts went ahead. Mark Taylor curled a free-kick on the left over the Hornchurch wall and into the near corner on 14 minutes.

Subsequent first-half action saw Bardle head off the line from Elliot Styles before Frendo fired just wide after turning his marker.

Billy Coyne equalised for the visitors on 58 minutes when he fired home a loose ball from 25 yards.

Harlow were back in front

three minutes later as Berry headed in from Lalite's corner.

On 71 minutes, Ellerbeck latched onto a poor back pass from Curley just a minute after coming on. His initial shot was stopped by Urchins keeper Dale Brightly, but he tapped home the rebound.

Bardle was sent off minutes later. He was the last man as Lee bore down on goal.

Berry bagged Harlow's fourth and final goal on 81 minutes. The midfielder fired in from 23 yards out.

Alzapiedi added: "He's one of a number of players who I felt for a couple of years could play at a higher level." Styles was denied a second by a smart save from Hawks keeper James Hasell late on.

HARLOW TN: Hasell 7, Taylor 7 (Kear 61), Bardle 6 (sent off 75), Gudgeon 7, Stewart 7, Berry 8, Lalite 7, Gliddon 6 (Ellerbeck 70), Richards 7, Frendo 6, Okojie 5 (Green 45 6). Subs not used: Webb, Hardy (gk). Att: 392.

Other result: Essex Olympian League, prem div – Benfleet 5, Epping 2 (Sam Wilkinson, Steve Poole). For report see www.harlowstar.co.uk

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